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June 4, 2020

Portage and Brady's Leap Service Plaza Update:

The Ohio Turnpike and Infrastructure Commission has contracts with various vendors, including Food and Retail Concession Operators throughout our system of 14 Service Plazas. Although spread across the 241-mile highway network, we work cooperatively with our partners in our collective mission to service the traveling public. As part of normal business, the Commission competitively bids and renews contracts, or secures new ones, as these agreements expire. The contracts for Food and Retail Concessions at Portage and Brady's Leap Service Plazas were set to expire May 31, 2020. The Ohio Turnpike's plan was to extend the concession services through the 2020 summer travel season and renovate the concession during the slower winter months. However, both concession operators at the Portage and Brady's Leap Service Plazas were unable to extend their service agreements, citing financial concerns due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related economic downturn in early 2020 across all business sectors.

As a result, Service Plaza Operations worked with 7-Eleven to establish a limited food and beverage C-store in the Portage and Brady's Leap lobby through the summer travel season. This operation will provide around-the-clock service to the traveling public until such time that market conditions improve, and a new long-term Food and Retail Concession agreement can be awarded. In the meantime, the plazas will remain open 24-hours a day, providing the C-store, fuel, vending machines, ATM's, restrooms, trucker lounges, RV parking and travel information. As of June 6, 2020, the Food Court area will be closed. However, some socially distanced seating will be available adjacent to the C-store operation.

The Ohio Turnpike thanks 7-Eleven for its work in establishing and providing the C-store operations for our valued customers. This temporary service arrangement will provide ample time for the interested operators to develop the best long-term proposals and appropriate mix of concepts to provide new and improved 21st century concession services to the Ohio Turnpike's customers. The Ohio Turnpike will solicit new proposals once both the Commission and prospective Operators can assess the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on available resources, and timing is appropriate to conduct an RFP.

We thank you for your patience and look forward to serving you!